(d) There is no provision for cost escalation in the Guidelines of the Programme.

Beneficiaries of NREGA in Gujarat

2919. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts selected in Gujarat for extending benefit under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) so far;

(b) the number of districts to be selected by end of March, 2010 in the State; and

(c) the number of households benefited under the Act in the country along with number of beneficiaries in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) All districts of Gujarat have been covered under NREGA with effect from 1.4.2008.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Total number of households provided employment under NREGA in the country and those in Gujarat are as under;

	Total number of households provided employment			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (up to October, 09)
Entire country	20984179	33889122	45112792	35179980
Gujarat	226269	290691	850691	1078886

Parameters of Rural Sanitation Scheme

2920. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the broad parameters of the rural sanitation scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fund is allocated by the Central Government under this scheme to the State Governments;

(c) whether the scheme is envisaged to give special thrust to the villages with the population of SC/ST majority; and

(d) if so, whether priority work be given to village Nandla, district Shimla, Himachal Pradesh which has sizeable number of Scheduled Caste population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI AGATHA SANGMA): (a) The Government of India administers the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main goal of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. The main